

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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AID-05 CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 CIEP-01 COME-00
DLOS-06 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 EPA-01 ERDA-05 FMC-01
TRSE-00 H-01 INR-07 INT-05 IO-13 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EFIS, PLOS, SENV, CA
SUBJ: CONFERENCE OF CANADIAN FISHERMEN'S UNIONS ATTACKS
GOC FISHERIES POLICIES

1. SUMMARY: DURING JANUARY 13 AND 14 CONFERENCES SPONSORED
BY CANADIAN LABOR CONGRESS (CLC), FISHING INDUSTRY UNION
REPS LAUNCHED ATTACK ON GOC INTERNATIONAL FISHERIES POLICIES.
CONFERENCE CALLED ON GOC NOT TO ENTER INTO JOINT FISHING
VENTURES WITH OTHER COUNTRIES AND TO BAN FOREIGN FISHING
IN CANADIAN 200-MILE ZONE UNTIL EVIDENCE OF FISH SURPLUS
CAN BE DEMONSTRATED. GOC OFFICIALS INFORMED EMBOFF THAT
THIS IS NOT A DETERMINED ATTACK ON GOC INTERNATIONAL
FISHERIES POLICY PER SE BUT A PUBLIC RELATIONS PLOY AIMED
AT EXTRACTING MORE FEDERAL ASSISTANCE FOR THE DISADVANTAGED
LABOR INTENSIVE SEGMENT OF THE INDUSTRY. GOC OFFICIALS
DO NOT BELIEVE POSITION TAKEN BY CLC CONFERENCE WILL POSE
SERIOUS DIFFICULTIES FOR GOC NEGOTIATORS AT LOS ANGELES.
END SUMMARY
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2. CLC HELD A TWO-DAY CONFERENCE OF REPRESENTATIVES
OF AFFILIATED UNIONS AND A NUMBER OF OTHER ORGANIZATIONS
INVOLVED IN FISHING, JANUARY 13 AND 14 IN OTTAWA. THIS
FIRST SUCH CONFERENCE ORGANIZED BY THE CLC REACHED TWO
MAJOR CONCLUSIONS: IT WILL ASK THE GOVERNMENT NOT TO
GO INTO JOINT VENTURES IN FISHING WITH ANY OTHER COUNTRY,

INCLUDING THE UNITED STATES; AND, SECONDLY, IT POSED THE DEMAND FOR A MORATORIUM ON FOREIGN FISHING WITHIN THE CANADIAN 200-MILE FISHING ZONE, AT LEAST UNTIL SUCH TIME AS TANGIBLE EVIDENCE OF SURPLUS STOCK IS AVAILABLE. AS A RESULT OF THE CONFERENCE A STEERING COMMITTEE WAS ESTABLISHED WHICH WILL EVENTUALLY LEAD TO CREATION OF A COUNCIL OR A DEPARTMENT WITHIN CLC. IT IS ESTIMATED THAT 10-20 PERCENT OF CANADIAN FISHING INTERESTS WERE REPRESENTED AT THE MEETING AND NEARLY 100 PERCENT OF THOSE WHO ARE ORGANIZED. IN ATTENDANCE WERE THE UNITED FISHERMEN AND ALLIED WORKERS UNION (UFAWU) - FAR LEFT AND COMMUNIST INFILTRATED, TOTAL MEMBERSHIP 6,000 IN B.C.; THE CANADIAN FOOD AND ALLIED WORKERS, WHO ARE PRIMARILY EMPLOYED IN FISH PROCESSING ON THE EAST COAST; THE NEWFOUNDLAND FISH, FOOD AND ALLIED WORKERS UNION, CONSIDERED THE MOST REPRESENTATIVE IN NEWFOUNDLAND WITH AN APPROXIMATE MEMBERSHIP OF 10,000; THE CANADIAN BROTHERHOOD OF RAILWAY, TRANSPORT AND GENERAL WORKERS, WHO HAVE APPROXIMATELY 500-600 FISHERMEN ORGANIZED; THE PUBLIC SERVICE ALLIANCE OF CANADA, WHOSE MEMBERS AS FEDERAL CIVIL SERVANTS ARE INVOLVED IN COASTAL PATROLS. AMONG THE INSHORE FISHERMEN THERE WERE REPRESENTED THE NORTHEAST NEW BRUNSWICK PROFESSIONAL FISHERMEN'S ASSOCIATION, THE SOUTHEAST NEW BRUNSWICK FISHERMEN'S ASSOCIATION AND THE NORTHUMBERLAND FISHERMEN'S ASSOCIATION.

3. COMMENT: DURING TALKS WITH GOC OFFICIALS PRE-LIMINARY TO SHORT-TERM FISHERY AGREEMENT NEGOTIATIONS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AT LOS ANGELES, EMBOFF LEARNED FROM FISHERY NEGOTIATOR LEGAULT AND EXTAFF LAWYER LEGER THAT CLC CONFERENCE WAS OCCASION FOR VITUPERATIVE ATTACK ON FEDERAL GOVERNMENT FISHERIES POLICIES. MUCH OF THE HEAT WAS DIRECTED PERSONALLY AT LEGAULT WHO APPEARED AT CONFERENCE TO EXPLAIN GOC POLICIES. AT TIME OF CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF, HE WAS STILL SMARTING FROM ROUGH MANNER IN WHICH HE WAS TREATED DURING THE CONFERENCE, ESPECIALLY BY THE UFAWU REPS. LEGER, WHO ALSO ATTENDED CONFERENCE, SAID, HOWEVER, THAT UNDERLYING MOTIVE OF ATTACK WAS NOT DISSATISFACTION WITH FEDERAL POLICY REGARDING CANADIAN INTERNATIONAL FISHING RELATIONSHIPS PER SE, BUT RATHER IT REPRESENTS AN EFFORT BY THE LABOR INTENSIVE ELEMENT OF THE FISHING INDUSTRY TO DEMONSTRATE TO THE PUBLIC ITS CONTINUED DISSATISFACTION WITH THE LEVEL OF ASSISTANCE IT IS RECEIVING FROM THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT. REPRESENTATION AT THE CONFERENCE WAS DOMINATED BY FISH PROCESSING WORKERS AND INSHORE, NET FISHERMEN WHO OPERATE DAYBOATS. THIS ELEMENT OF THE INDUSTRY FEELS

IT IS NOT BENEFITED BY IMPOSITION OF A 200-MILE LIMIT.
ONLY THE LARGE CORPORATE FIRMS AND FISHERMEN WHO
CARRY ON LONG DISTANCE AS BENEFITING FROM THIS ACTION.
(NOTE: FEDERAL OFFICIALS CONTEND THAT 200-MILE LIMIT
WILL IMPROVE STATE OF BOTH DEEP-SEA AND INSHORE
FISHERIES AND THEREBY AID THE SMALL FISHERMEN AND
PROCESSERS.) LEGER FELT THAT BECAUSE THIS WAS
ESSENTIALLY A PROBLEM WITH A POTENTIAL DOMESTIC
REMEDY (I.E. MORE FEDERAL SUPPORT FOR THIS MOST ECONOMICALLY
DISADVANTAGED SEGMENT OF THE INDUSTRY), THE POSITION
TAKEN AT THE CLC CONFERENCE WITH REGARD TO FOREIGN
FISHING IN CANADIAN WATERS MUST BE TAKEN INTO BY
GOC BUT WILL NOT MATERIALLY HAMPER EFFORTS OF
CANADIAN NEGOTIATORS IN LOS ANGELES.
ENDERS

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